

05-05-2010

Dear SIC Members and Friends:

In this issue of *SIC Clips & Quips* (**Volume 2, Issue 5**), we share some information on several items of importance for all School Improvement Council Members.

• **Are You Registered to Vote?** With primary elections just around the corner – June 8th – the deadline to register to vote is May 8th. If you wish to vote in the primaries (an important part of supporting your choices to appear on the ballot for the general election in November), you must either register in person by 5:00 p.m., Saturday, May 8, 2010, at your county voter registration office or have your South Carolina Voter Registration mail application postmarked no later than May 8, 2010. You can get an application and find the address of your local voter registration office via the link provided below. You can also submit your application by fax or by scanning it and emailing it to your voter registration office, but must do so by May 8th. Also, as the June 8th primaries are right at the beginning of summer when folks might have vacations scheduled and be out of town, you may wish to cast an absentee ballot. You can learn more from the S.C. Elections Commission through the link given below. Remember, whether casting your ballot in person or by absentee, it's important that we exercise our right to vote. And we can't vote if we're not registered! If you haven't seen it, you may wish to read SC-SIC Executive Director Cassie Barber's article, "Why Voting in the Primary Election is Important!" in the latest issue of Council News on our website, <http://sic.sc.gov>.

• **The Annual SIC "Report to the Parents"** is required by state law to be issued to school communities by April 30th each year. Need help with yours? Give us a call or click on the link below for tips. We ask that all SICs send a copy of their "Report to the Parents" to our office by June 1st so that we can better assist SICs and get a more comprehensive picture of what SICs are doing across the state. You can send your Report to us via U.S. Mail, or if you have it electronically, you can email it to us at wolverto@mailbox.sc.edu. Sending us your Report also serves as an accountability measure and provides us with data and information SC-SIC needs to share more about its work and impact on local SICs.

• **Do You Have A HEART to help children** from families facing challenging economic times? As we well know, life's adversities can have a significant impact on students' behavior and academic achievement. The S.C. Department of Education's Office of Youth Services has developed the HEART Toolkit for educators and others help students, families and community members struggling with all the ramifications of financial difficulties. The HEART (Helping Educators Access Resources Together) Toolkit reflects the beliefs that public schools truly are the heart of their communities and that the lives young people are enhanced when they are supported by knowing, caring adults in schools and communities. To view or download a copy of the Toolkit, check out the link below.

• **The Time Is Now To Think About Fall SIC Training**, and we're here to assist you in getting those sessions scheduled. One of the most important first steps for newly elected and appointed SIC members is to learn what their roles and responsibilities really are. SIC "Basics" training is designed to provide this foundation. So whether you are an SIC District Contact, a principal or a local SIC Chair, give some thought now to your training needs for the fall. Contact the SC-SIC office to arrange for a training session for your district and to look at available training dates. Have other training needs, such as SIC goal development, leadership and advocacy or some other topic? Check out our training resources online at <http://sic.sc.gov> and let us know what we can do to help!

• **Nominations for State Board of Education Volunteer Awards** are being accepted through May 20, 2010. Do you know of an outstanding individual or group making significant volunteer contributions to the education of public school children and youth in South Carolina during the 2009-10 school year? The State Board of education would like to recognize these individuals, businesses, School Improvement Councils, and civic organizations for their efforts. (Hats off to the SIC of Round Top Elementary in Richland School District 2 for receiving one of these awards this past year) You can link to a copy of the nomination form on our website, <http://sic.sc.gov>, mid-way down the homepage. Simply print off the form, complete it and submit it to the S.C. Department of Education through your district's volunteer coordinator.

Remember, CLIPS & QUIPS is sent to all SIC members who share their email addresses with us. Please print out and share this information with other SIC members who may not have received it. We are here to help you, so please contact us any time!

Links:

SC Voter Registration Application and Office Locations

http://www.scvotes.org/south_carolina_voter_registration_information

Absentee Voting

http://www.scvotes.org/2009/10/15/absentee_voting

SIC Reports to the Parents

</publicationsanddownloads/sicreporttotheparents.htm>

HEART Toolkit

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/Innovation-and-Support/Youth-Services/guidance/elementary-counseling/HEARTTool-Kit.html>